

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PORT O 01193 161944Z

11

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 FTC-01 JUSE-00 CU-02 /052 W

----- 061547

R 161910Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7799

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 1193

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ECLA, PINT, XM, XL, TD

SUBJ: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO AT ECLA

REF: POS 1180

SUMMARY: THE JUST ENDED ECLA CONFERENCE IN TRINIDAD WAS A SUCCESSFUL FORAY INTO THE MULTILATERAL CONFERENCE ARENA FOR THE GOTT AND ESPECIALLY PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS. ALTHOUGH LACKING THE ECONOMIC POWER OR SIZE OF EITHER ITS NORTHERN OR SOUTHERN NEIGHBORS, THE GOTT USED ITS POSITION AS HOST TO PUSH TWO MAJOR RESOLUTIONS SUCCESSFULLY THROUGH THE CONFERENCE AND THE OCCASIONS OF THE OPENING AND CLOSING SPEECHES, WHICH WERE MADE BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL AND THE PRIME MINISTER, TO DIRECT THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE AND THE PUBLIC TO ISSUES OF CONCERN TO TRINIDAD. THESE SUBSTANTIVE SUCCESSES, COUPLED WITH EFFECTIVE MANNER IN WHICH THE GOTT MADE THE PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE, MADE THE EVENT A VERY SATISFACTORY UNDERTAKING FOR THE GOTT. END SUMMARY.

1. TRINIDAD MADE TWO MAJOR PROPOSALS TO THE CONFERENCE-

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PORT O 01193 161944Z

A RECOMMENDATION THAT THE UN COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL

CORPORATIONS (TNC) ESTABLISH A REGIONAL UNIT IN LATIN AMERICA FOR THE SURVEILLANCE OF TNC'S IN THE REGION, AND THE CREATION OF A SEPARATE ECLA CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERED IN PORT OF SPAIN- WHICH WERE ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OVER THE OBJECTIONS OF THE U.S. A THIRD RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE UN UNIVERSITY TO EXPAND ITS ROLE IN THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY WAS ALSO ADOPTED BY A CONFERENCE WHICH DID NOT WISH TO OFFEND ITS HOST. THIS WAS RELATED TO WILLIAMS' POSITION ON THE UNIVERSITY'S COUNCIL. IN ADDITION, THE GOTT USED THE CONFERENCE TO VOICE ITS COMPLAINT THAT IT WAS BEING TREATED UNFAIRLY AS A "RICH NATION" BY INTERNATIONAL LENDING AGENCIES, DESPITE ITS COMPARATIVELY SMALL PETROLEUM RESOURCES.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER'S INTERESTS IN MAKING THESE PROPOSALS- TO DEMONSTRATE CONCERN WITH THE TNC ACTIVITIES AND THEREBY STEAL THE "MULTINATIONALS" ISSUE FROM HIS RADICAL OPPONENTS AND CRITICS AND TO ENHANCE HIS REPUTATION AS A LEADING CARIBBEAN STATESMAN-WERE AMPLY SERVED BY THE FULL PRESS COVERAGE GIVEN TO THE TRINIDADIAN PROPOSALS AND BY THEIR ACCEPTANCE BY THE CONFERENCE. VIEWED SOLELY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF DOMESTIC POLITICS, WILLIAMS' PERFORMANCE AND THE STAGING OF THE ECLA CONFERENCE IN TRINIDAD MUST BE VIEWED AS A DISTINCT PLUS FOR A POLITICIAN WHOSE LUSTRE HAD BEGUN TO DIM. TAKEN TOGETHER WITH HIS TWO TRIPS TO CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING HIS MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND CHAIRMAN MAO AND HIS FORTHCOMING VISITS TO THE USSR AND CUBA, WILLIAMS' IMAGE WITHIN TRINIDAD AS A SERIOUS STATESMAN WHO IS SO REGARDED BY THE MAJOR POWERS HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY BRIGHTENED. THIS BUILD-UP WILL SERVE HIM WELL AT ELECTION TIME WHEN HE IS EXPECTED TO LEAD HIS PARTY AGAINST A NUMBER OF OPPONENTS WHOSE CREDENTIALS IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA ARE VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT.

MILLER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTO01193
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750174-0005
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750545/aaaabobt.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 POS 1180
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO AT ECLA
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PORG, XM, XL, TD, ECLA, (WILLIAMS, ERIC)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006